

AMHERST STEELE HIGH SCHOOL

450 Washington Street • Amherst, Ohio 44001-1598

(440) 988-4433
FAX (440) 988-5087
www.amherst.k12.oh.us

Michael J. Gillam
Principal

October 13, 2017

Jeanne Kornick
Associate Principal

Bill Miller
Assistant Principal/
Athletic Director

Chairman Ajit Pai
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn
Commissioner Michael O'Rielly
Commissioner Brendan Carr
Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel
c/o Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: ET Docket No. 14-165 and GN Docket Nos. 12-268 and 14-166 Via Electronic Filing

Dear Chairman Pai, Commissioner Clyburn, Commissioner O'Rielly, Commissioner Carr, Commissioner Rosenworcel, and Ms. Dortch,

On behalf of Marion L Steele high school, located in Amherst, Ohio, that provides approximately 23 performances per year to 10,000 audience members and education programs to 2,600 students, I write with concern about available spectrum and protection for our wireless microphones and backstage communications devices.

Our Theatre Company is dedicated to bringing quality theatre experiences to the students and community of Amherst.

I strongly support the Commission's proposal to expand Part 74 license eligibility to include persons and organizations that can demonstrate the need for professional, high-quality audio and have the capability of providing it through conscientious use of wireless microphones. We support and endorse the Comments filed in these dockets by The Performing Arts Wireless Microphone Working Group.

School theatre programs and professional performing arts organizations hold thousands of performances each year, and wireless microphones are essential to producing high-quality performances while limiting significant public safety concerns. Professional wireless capability, with successful interference protection, is essential to educational theatre, both in the training and safety of students, onstage and backstage.

We have 22 wireless mike units.

Audio Technica 300 series

15 units are in the C Band 541.500 - 566.375 frequency

6 units are in the D Band 655.750 - 680.250 frequency

We use up to 15 unit at a time between C and D band

All the unit are analog

We own them and they will last about 10 years

We lost about 6 unit in 2010. It cost us about \$3,600 to replace,

plus the the others that we bought \$9,600 for the other 16

It will take 5 years to replace due to fundraising needs.

COMET PRIDE

Not only do we use the wireless microphones for three play productions during the school year, so does the Band and Choir for the various school concerts, as well as the elementary schools for their programs. There is also a summer theatre program for students that has three productions using the microphones. On top of that, the high school uses a hand held wireless microphone to make announcements at lunch, or for any speaker who may be coming in to present a program to the students and/or staff. The counselors use the microphone for evening programs for the parents and community. The superintendent and administration also rely on the microphone for any community or staff function. Countless Awards programs and banquets are also held in the space, and especially need the microphone.

I would urge the Commission to grant a Part 74 license if an applicant can provide certification of:

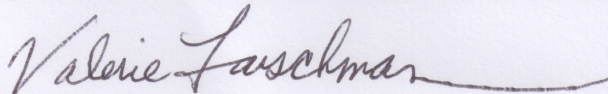
- A mission statement of providing performing arts to the public;
- A history of professional-quality wireless audio presentations to audiences without interference;
- Technical guidance and frequency coordination by qualified professionals (active in audio engineering who have academic degrees or equivalent professional experience and who are familiar with radio-frequency coordination);
- A commitment to register for protection only the frequencies, times, and locations actually needed; and
- A practice of keeping logs of all wireless microphone uses, including frequencies, for all performances.

We are not a wealthy school system, nor do we have the luxury of an auditorium. We handle all our programs in a cafetorium with questionable acoustics. It is imperative that we be allowed to use wireless microphones so audiences can hear. It is also imperative that there is no outside interference while the programs are going on, as it can have a disturbing and negative effect on the event and those in attendance. We also do not have the money to suddenly change our system. the theatre company has been responsible for purchasing the microphones on our own. The burden becomes ours to replace any instrument, sound or light.

I appreciate that the Commission has sought Public Comment on this very important issue. Educational institutions and professional performing arts organizations should have access to reliably available spectrum with interference protection. I would request that the Commission consider the burden already borne by the performing arts community in vacating the 700 MHz band. I am concerned about the cost of once again replacing my organization's sound equipment. Once that investment has been made, I would like some assurance that the system will work properly and without interference.

Besides education, school theatre programs provide demonstrable service to their individual communities, serving as a hub for entertainment, dialogue, and affirmation of student achievement and growth in important 21st century skills, such as creativity and collaboration. They also contribute to local economies in every community across this country. I respectfully endorse the Commission's proposal to expand Part 74 LPAS rules to accommodate schools and performing arts organizations that use fewer than 50 wireless microphones. The proposal is a much-needed solution that benefits the arts community and the public as well as the many new and emerging unlicensed white space technologies.

Sincerely,



Valerie Farschman, Drama Director
Thespian Troupe 1422
Marion L Steele High School
450 Washington Street
Amherst, Ohio 44001